

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13-16, and 19-22 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 7, 13, and 19 are amended. Claims 6, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, and 24 are cancelled. No new claims are added. No new subject matter has been added by this amendment. In view of the foregoing amendments and following comments, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Bowman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,986) in view of Pant et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,053). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection on the following basis.

Independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 recite the feature of searching a first search result for objects that satisfy a second search query, among other things. In an exemplary embodiment, a first search may retrieve a first search result that includes one or more documents, these documents may satisfy a first search query (see the Specification at page 3, lines 1-3). The system may identify a search refinement option that may enable a user to further limit the documents included in the first search result (see the Specification at page 3, lines 6 and 7). Upon selection by the user, a search refinement option may be applied only to documents included in the first search result (see the specification at page 3, lines 10-12).

Bowman discloses a search engine that provides a user with suggested related terms in order to refine a search (see Bowman, the Abstract). The related terms are generated using query term correlation data that reflect frequencies with which specific terms have previously appeared within the same query (see Bowman, the Abstract). Bowman appears to teach that after a user has input a first search query, the system provides the user with a plurality of refined searches that include the first search query and at least one additional term that may be presented to the user in the form of a hyperlink (see Bowman at col. 14, lines 26-30, and FIG. 9). If the user selects a related

search term, an entirely new search of a database is performed, wherein the new search is conducted using the first search query and the at least one additional search term (col. 14 lines 31-35). Bowman does not, however, teach or suggest searching a *first search result* for objects that satisfy a second search query.

The Examiner admits that Bowman is deficient for failing to disclose retrieving a search result comprising at least one object if a determination is made that the at least one object satisfies the search query, and determining a type of information included in the at least one object. The Examiner alleges that Pant teaches this feature. Pant appears to disclose a system for ranking results from a search query based on user specified relevance factors (see Pant at the Abstract). Even if the Examiner's assertion is accepted, Pant does not teach or suggest searching a first search result for objects that satisfy a second search query.

In view of the foregoing differences between claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 and the cited art, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are believed to be allowable over these references. Further, claims 2-5, 8-10, 14-16, and 20-22 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

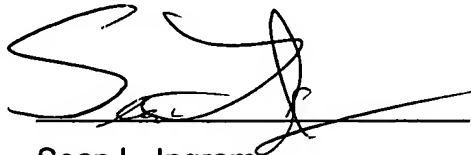
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Reply and Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Dated: August 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. L. Ingram', written over a horizontal line.

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